

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, prior to the first paragraph which begins on line 2, please insert the following:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 1, lines 2 and 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention relates to a field bus distribution unit for connecting a field bus of process information technology with a plurality of field devices ~~as defined in the preamble of claim 1.~~

On page 1, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 4, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 18, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, please delete lines 22 to 25.

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 20, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 26, please insert the following:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS